

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An identity management system to authenticate the identity of an individual, comprising:
  - a vetting workstation to verify the identity of the individual and generate identification data;
  - an enrollment workstation to enroll the individual whose identity has been verified, to issue an identification token, and generate identification data; and
  - a core system networked with the vetting workstation and the enrollment workstation to provide a central clearinghouse for the storage and exchange of identification data.
2. The identity management system of claim 1, further comprising a security check workstation to validate the identity of the individual at a facility using the identification token, and to record identification data, wherein the core system is networked with a security check workstation.
3. The identity management system of claim 1, further comprising a check-in workstation for checking-in individuals possessing the identification token, wherein the core system is networked with the checking workstation.
4. The identity management system described in claim 3, wherein the check-in workstation is an automated kiosk.
5. The identity management system described in claim 1, further comprising a dispatch workstation to allow tracking of an individual with respect to the facility, to verify the individual's employee status, and to verify that the individual has a need to access certain areas of the facility, wherein the core system is electronically connected with the dispatch workstation.
6. The identity management system described in claim 1, further comprising a boarding workstation to authorize an individual to board a means of transportation based on verification of the identity and travel information regarding the individual, wherein the core system is electronically connected to the boarding workstation.
7. The identity management system described in claim 1, wherein the core system is electronically connected with the vetting workstation and the enrollment workstation using a secure connection.
8. The identity management system described in claim 6, wherein the core system is networked with the check-in workstation and the boarding workstation using a secure connection.

9. The identity management system described in claim 5, wherein the core system is networked with the dispatch workstation using a secure connection.

10. The identity management system described in claim 3, further comprising a boarding workstation to authorize an individual to board a means of transportation based on verification of the identity and travel information regarding the individual, wherein the core system is electronically connected to the boarding workstation.

11. An identity management process for authenticating the identity of an individual, comprising:

pre-enrolling the individual in an identity management system by collecting personal information submitted by the individual and storing the information in a database;

vetting the individual by authenticating the personal information through at least one database of at least one of law enforcement, government and background checking organizations;

enrolling the individual into the identity management system;

comparing personal information collected during pre-enrolling to data collected during enrolling;

vetting the individual by conducting at least a background check of the individual; and

issuing an identification token to the individual.

12. The identity management process of claim 11, wherein pre-enrolling employs at least one of the Internet, mail service, and personal appearance.

13. The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising submitting biometric data for identification purposes.

14. The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising checking-in the individual at a location by at least one of scanning the identification token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity data.

15. The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising conducting security checks at least one location using a security workstation by at least one of scanning the identity token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity data.

16. The identity management process of claim 11, further comprising identity verification prior to boarding a means of transportation by at least one of scanning the

identification token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity and travel information.

17. The identity management process of claim 14, wherein checking-in includes obtaining the identity information queried from the core system that includes at least one of a facial image, an iris scan, hand geometry, a fingerprint, and the like.

18. The identity management process of claim 15, wherein conducting security checks includes obtaining identity information queried from the core system that includes at least one of a facial image, an iris scan, hand geometry, a fingerprint, and the like.

19. The identity management process of claim 16, wherein identity verification includes obtaining identity information queried from the core system includes at least one of a facial image, an iris scan, hand geometry, a fingerprint, and the like.

20. The identity management process of claim 11, wherein pre-enrolling, enrolling and vetting are performed in accord with an access control system of a transportation facility.

21. A computer usable program embodied on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, comprising:

- pre-enrolling an individual in the identity management system by recording personal information submitted by the individual;
- enrolling the individual into the identity management system;
- vetting the individual by authenticating personal data through the query of a plurality of databases including law enforcement, government and background checking organizations; and
- issuing an identity token to the individual.

22. The computer program of claim 21, wherein pre-enrolling employs at least one of the Internet, mail service, and personal appearance.

23. The computer program of claim 21, further comprising submitting biometric data.

24. The computer program of claim 21, further comprising checking-in the individual by at least one of scanning the identity token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity information.

25. The computer program of claim 21, further comprising conducting security checks at various locations using one or more security workstations by at least one of scanning the identity token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity information.

26. The computer program of claim 21, further comprising

boarding onto the means of transportation by at least one of scanning the identity token of the individual, verifying biometric data of the individual and querying the core system for identity and travel information.